

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA
MARCH 19, 2014**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2014, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street, Jasper, Indiana.

Call to Order. Presiding Officer Mayor Terry Seitz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call.

Clerk-Treasurer Juanita S. Boehm called the roll.

Mayor Terry Seitz	Present
Council members:	
Gregory Schnarr	Present
David Prechtel	Present
Thomas Schmidt	Present
Earl Schmitt	Present
Kevin Manley	Present
Randall Buchta	Present
Raymond Howard	Absent
City Attorney Renee Kabrick	Present
Clerk-Treasurer Juanita S. Boehm	Present

Clerk-Treasurer Boehm announced that in order to have a quorum for the meeting, a majority of the council members must be in attendance. Six of the seven council members were in attendance which is a majority; therefore, there was a quorum for the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Seitz invited all those present to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes.

The following minutes were distributed to and examined by the Council:

1. February 19, 2014 regular common council meeting

A **motion** was made by Council member David Prechtel and seconded by Council member Kevin Manley to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried 6-0.

JCAC. Jasper Community Arts Commission member Becky Beckman attended the meeting on behalf of the Board.

Scouts. Many boy scouts from Holy Family Troop 185 and St. Joseph's Troop 182 were present along with their leaders. The scouts are working on a citizenship in the community badge.

Utility Service Board. General Manager of Utilities Gerald ‘Bud’ Hauersperger gave a report on the regular monthly Utility Service Board meeting held on March 17, 2014. A copy of the Utility Service Board minutes is supplied to each council member.

Land sale-15th and Newton. City Attorney Renee Kabrick reported that she met with Dennis Sendelweck and he agreed to purchase the property located on the south east corner of 15th and Newton Streets for \$4,240.00. Kabrick said she will prepare the paperwork to complete this transaction.

Option agreement with school board to purchase property. Mayor Seitz said a council member asked to weigh in on the proposed purchase option agreement the Redevelopment Commission [RDC] recommended to the school board regarding purchasing some of the Parklands property.

Council member Randall Buchta then made the following comments.

“When this whole thing started we were always told that the council would have the final approval on what happens with the old County Club.

The RDC was developed to be able to negotiate price of property we wanted to purchase if the average of two appraisals was less than the asking price. After a price was agreed upon, the Council would appropriate the money for the purchase. After settlement, the property would then be transferred to the City. When RDC purchased the land from EH Hamilton for the street department that was the way it went. For whatever reason, through no fault of the RDC, in this case it did not happen. Now that the RDC still has ownership, I am told they can do whatever they want. I don’t understand how an appointed board can have more power than an elected board.

The council has seen the options the RDC is going to offer the Jasper School Board. I don’t agree with them. We have to get the Rainy Day Fund paid back and whatever we sell to the school is part of the payback. I don’t want to wait 10 years to do that.

The school prefers Option 2, Purchase the property now and they maintain the property. I agree. The Mayor made a promise to the school board, which I don’t agree with, but we need to keep the lines of communication open and do what is right.

So, I am proposing to the RDC to sell 10 acres at the average of two new appraisals or for the \$17,300+ per acre and settle as soon as possible. After the settlement the remaining land is to be transferred to the City and out of the RDC ownership. This money will be part of the Rainy Day Fund payback.

I think we need to move on and put this behind us. Then sell the St. Charles Street, 30th Street and Lechner Lane properties to also pay back the Rainy Day Fund. When this is completed the park department will be able to concentrate their efforts on the Parklands.

In the future I would hope to think that future school boards and City officials will be able to work together if there is a need for more acreage to expand the high school”.

City Attorney Renee Kabrick then explained how the current option agreement originated. After the March RDC meeting, Kabrick said she relayed RDC’s recommendation to Dr. Lorey but since the council wanted to comment on that recommendation, she did not forward the purchase option agreement to Lorey. Kabrick also explained that technically RDC has the authority to oversee the Parklands property but practically the RDC needs to work with the council.

Council member Earl Schmitt said he thought once the land was purchased by RDC it would be turned over to the City so the council would oversee the property and deal with the school. Council member Thomas Schmidt said he thinks the school should buy its portion now and not wait ten years. Council member Gregory Schnarr said he would like to see the other terms of the agreement to remain particularly the passive uses. Council member Kevin Manley said it does not make sense to go with a ten-year option because the City will have to maintain the school’s portion. We need to sell it now and put the sale proceeds back into the Rainy Day Fund.

Kabrick said if the group thinks there should be an outright sale, then she will take that information to the RDC.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Randall Buchta and seconded by Council member Earl Schmitt to recommend to the Redevelopment Commission to sell ten acres of land to the school outright and keep the other applicable terms and conditions such as passive use.

Under discussion, Council member Earl Schmitt asked if we could work out a deal if the school wanted five more acres in the future. Kabrick said fifteen acres would not be doable because of the location of a body of water. Schmitt then asked if the council could have a joint meeting with the RDC regarding this matter. Kabrick said she will take the recommendation to the RDC and if the RDC makes any changes, the changes would come back to the council.

Mayor Seitz then called for the vote. The motion carried 6-0.

Funding options presentation. Mayor Seitz introduced Gary Malone with Umbaugh and Associates. Malone was asked to do a presentation regarding possible funding options for the Downtown Riverfront Master Plan.

Malone then distributed a handout of his power point presentation. His presentation consisted of an overview of common sources of funding and borrowing methods.

Stellar Community Program. Mayor Seitz announced the city learned it was not one of the six finalists in the Stellar Communities Grant program. He then made the following statement.

“At this time I wish to offer my gratitude to the team of staff members and outside professionals who assisted the City of Jasper in its letter of interest in the State of Indiana’s Stellar Community Program. Over the course of several weeks, and by my estimate at least a hundred hours of time we created a document which directly responded to expectations provided to us by State Officials over the last year. We built upon our existing Downtown and Riverfront Master Plan and in my opinion our effort was indeed, stellar. Late this afternoon we learned from local media reports that Jasper was not one of the six communities named as stellar finalist. Our neighbor, Huntingburg, was selected to move to the next step in this competition and I congratulate Mayor Spinner and his team. While we should take a few moments to step back and reflect, we will immediately move forward with the work at hand. The good news is the work that was done to prepare the stellar letter of interest is work we would have already done in the next step with the – just at least – the downtown work. In doing so we will acknowledge the strengths of our community”.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Council member Thomas Schmidt and seconded by Council member Randall Buchta to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved _____ with X without corrections or clarification this 23rd day of April, 2014.

Mayor Terry Seitz
Presiding Officer

Attest: _____
Juanita S. Boehm, Clerk-Treasurer